

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Status of the Application

Prior to the entry of this amendment, claims 1-8 were pending in the application. An office action dated March 30, 2004 rejected all pending claims under 35 U.S.C § 103(a) as unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 5,649,195 ("Scott") in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,199,069 ("Dettinger") and/or U.S. Patent No. 6,199,069 ("Martino"). This amendment amends claims 1, 4, 5 and 8. Claims 3 and 7 have been cancelled, and new claims 9-12 have been added. Hence, after entry of this amendment, claims 1, 2, 4-6 and 8-12 will stand pending in the application.

Interview Summary

The undersigned thanks the Examiner for his courteous and professional attitude in the telephone interviews conducted between the undersigned and the Examiner on May 18, 2004 and June 25, 2004. During those interviews, the claim amendments shown above were discussed, and the Examiner indicated his agreement that the claims, in the form above, are allowable over the cited references.

Claim Amendments

Claims 1, 4, 5 and 8 have been amended. In addition, this amendment adds new claims 9-12. Support for the amendments, and the new claims, can be found in the specification at, *inter alia*, page 14, line 6, through page 15, line 12.

Rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a)

The latest office action rejected all pending claims under § 103(a). It is believed that the claims as pending after entry of this amendment are in condition for allowance. The applicant respectfully requests, therefore, that the rejections be withdrawn and that the pending claims be allowed.

Appl. No. 09/582,721
Amdt. dated July 1, 2004
Reply to Office Action of March 30, 2004


PATENT

CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing, the applicant believes all claims now pending in this Application are in condition for allowance. The issuance of a formal Notice of Allowance at an early date is respectfully requested.

If the Examiner believes a telephone conference would expedite prosecution of this application, please telephone the undersigned at 303-571-4000.

Respectfully submitted,


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